

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 19, 2008 has been carefully considered.

Claims 1-3 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Rosheim et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2.

According to the invention, the support rotates about a pivot; the support is caused to rotate about the pivot by a remote means that generates at least two distinct and independent forces. These two independent forces cause the support to move with respect to the pivot according to at least two independent directions. However, the two forces do not act on the support directly, but by two separate and distinct deviating means.

This allows the support, which holds a distal element, to be oriented in the space about the pivot according to a wide range of angles.

Rosheim et al describes a manipulator that has a link 15 with respect to which a distal wrist rotates. The distal wrist rolls on the distal link by a joint 16. The distal wrist, however, does not rotate about a fixed pivot, but rolls on link 15. In other words, considering the distal link as a sphere, the distal wrist does not rotate about the center of the sphere; instead, the center of rotation is on a point of contact between the distal link and the distal wrist.

Moreover, elements 60, 61 of Rosheim et al do not operate independently. For this reason, distal wrist has can only rotate using a very complex mechanism and cannot follow all positions of pure rotation as is possible according to the invention.

Accordingly, the claims are patentable over Rosheim et

al, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ira J. Schultz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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